

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled, and claims 21-50 have been added herein. Assuming entry of this amendment, claims 21-50 are now pending. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,160,651 ("Chang") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,786,916 ("Okayama") and rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Chang in view of Okayama and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,646,989 ("Khotimsky").

In paragraph 4, the Examiner indicated that claims 7-16 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For reference, the following table illustrates the original claims that provide support for each of new claims 21-50:

New Claim	Support in Original Claim(s)
21	1 and 7
22	8
23	9
24	10
25	11
26	12
27	13
28	2
29	3
30	4
31	5
32	6
33	14
34	15
35	16
36	17
37	1 and 14
38	15
39	16
40	2
41	3
42	4
43	5
44	6
45	1 and 7
46	14
47	1 and 14
48	1 and 7
49	14
50	1 and 14

For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that new claims 21-50 are allowable over the cited references:

New Claims 21-36, 45, 46, 48, and 49

New claim 21 is equivalent to original claim 7 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that original claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 21 is allowable over the cited references.

For similar reasons, new claims 45 and 48 are allowable over the cited references.

Since new claims 22-36, 46, and 49 depend variously from new claims 21, 45, and 48 it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over the cited references.

New Claims 37-44, 47, and 50

New claim 37 is equivalent to original claim 14 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that original claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 37 is allowable over the cited references.


For similar reasons, new claims 47 and 50 are allowable over the cited references.

Since new claims 38-44 depend from new claim 37, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over the cited references.

Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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